

**U.S. Congressman Phil Gingrey
Opening Statement**

**House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health
March 20, 2013**

HEARING: “ *Health Information Technologies: How Innovation Benefits Patients* ”

Mr. Chairman,

Thank you for calling this hearing today, and I commend the committee looking at the benefits that health information technologies can provide to the practice of medicine. The possibility that these emerging technologies may encourage higher patient engagement and ultimately better health outcome is impossible to ignore.

An impediment to innovation continues to be the uncertainty regarding the regulation of these technologies. We must seek a balance between patient safety and innovation. An overly restrictive regulatory process will stifle innovation and ultimately lead to erosion in the quality of care that a patient may receive. We need to work together to develop a framework that minimizes risk to a patient, but limits the regulatory hurdles so that future innovation will continue to change health care delivery and a patient's access to their health information.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to working with the Committee to develop this framework. I still believe in the amazing potential that health information technologies will have on the practice of medicine, and I will continue to work to allow the market to develop breakthroughs to the benefit of patients.

Thank you and I yield back.